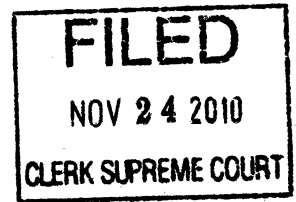


IN THE SUPREME COURT OF IOWA



ORDER

**IN THE MATTER OF AMENDMENT
TO IOWA COURT RULE 41.12(1)**

In October of 2009, the court adopted a rule requiring all lawyers newly admitted by examination to attend a basic skills course on Iowa law. The rule requires that the basic skills course be completed within one year after admission to the Iowa bar. Following adoption of the rule, the court received the recommendation that new lawyers be allowed to complete the basic skills course during the time between completion of the bar examination and admission to practice. The court finds that new lawyers would benefit from being allowed to complete the basic skills course during this period, and agrees with the recommendation. Therefore, by action of this court, Iowa Court Rule 41.12(1) is amended as shown in the attached document. The amendment to this rule shall take place immediately.

Dated this 24th day of November, 2010.

THE SUPREME COURT OF IOWA

By Marsha Ternus
Marsha Ternus, Chief Justice

CHAPTER 41

CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION FOR LAWYERS

Rule 41.12 Basic skills course requirement.

41.12(1) Every Iowa lawyer admitted to practice by examination after December 31, 2008, must complete a Basic Skills Course. The course must be completed within one year of the newly admitted lawyer's date of admission to practice in Iowa.⁴ The course may be completed after the last day of the bar examination that resulted in admission. If the course is completed after the last day of the bar examination, but the applicant fails the examination, the applicant will remain in compliance with this rule so long as the applicant passes the next examination offered.

⁴As an interim implementation provision, lawyers admitted during calendar year 2009 must complete the Basic Skills Course within two years of the newly admitted lawyer's date of admission to practice in Iowa.

The following summary is to be posted on the website as a separate document along with the rule.

SUMMARY

In October of 2009, the court adopted a rule requiring all lawyers newly admitted by examination to attend a basic skills course on Iowa law. The rule requires that the basic skills course be completed within one year after admission to the Iowa bar. After adoption of the rule, Drake Law School suggested that the court modify the new rule to allow new lawyers to complete the basic skills course requirement during the time between completion of the bar examination and admission to practice. Because new lawyers will benefit from being allowed to complete the basic skills course during this period, the court accepted the recommendation.

The amendment permits an applicant for admission by examination to attend an approved basic skills course after completing the bar examination but before admission, so long as the applicant is admitted based on that bar examination or the next examination offered. An applicant who attends the basic skills course during the stated time period and is later admitted based on one of the stated examinations will receive credit for completing the basic skills course requirement, and also will be eligible to claim credit for the basic skills course against normal continuing legal education requirements.